System Training and Response (STaR) Team – SAIS Information Series

New SAIS Requirements for ELL – Fiscal Year 2009

This document is intended to describe changes to SAIS reporting requirements for Fiscal Year 2009 regarding English Language Learner programs.

Introduction

There are several changes to SAIS reporting requirements for Fiscal Year 2009 that apply to English Language Learner programs.

- ELL Program Code {M} (Mainstream) will not be applicable from FY 2009 forward.

- A new ELL Program Code {I} is to be used when a student has been placed in an ELL program based on an Individual Language Learner Plan (ILLP) and is in effect from FY 2009 forward.

- Several rules governing the number and timing of assessments that may be administered under specified circumstances that were in effect for FY 2008 will not apply in FY 2009. Instead, from FY 2009 forward, SAIS will allow a student to have records of up to three separate language assessments (AZELLA) administered by an individual school district or charter holder. Assessments may be administered on any day without regard to any previously designated assessment period.

- SAIS Transaction 12, "Student Assessment," will be disabled from FY 2009 forward. Instead, student assessment results will be submitted to SAIS by the third party which publishes and finalizes scoring of the Arizona English Language Learner Assessment (AZELLA).

Program Codes

The Arizona English Language Learners Task Force has specified that the term "mainstream" applies to students who do not participate in an English Language Learner program. From FY 2009 forward the term could be used to describe a student who had formerly participated in an ELL program, but has been reclassified as "Fluent English Proficient" and has exited from ELL program participation. The term "mainstream" will no longer describe a particular ELL program or a manner in which ELL instruction is delivered.

From FY 2009 forward, most students classified as English Language Learners in Arizona public schools will be placed in Structured or Sheltered English Immersion

programs (ELL Program Code {A} in SAIS). The bilingual programs that require one of three types of waivers, will continue. Also, a new program (ELL Program Code {I} in SAIS) has been added for use when students are placed, under specific circumstances, in an ELL program based on an Individual Language Learner Plan (ILLP).

Please contact the ADE Office of English Language Acquisition Services should additional details regarding the requirements for placing students in specific ELL programs be needed.

Revised rules applicable to administering assessments

The Office of English Language Acquisition Services (OELAS) had established timelines for initial, and under certain specific circumstances, subsequent language assessments during FY 2008. Going forward, SAIS will only validate that a student has records of no more than three language assessments administered by an individual school district or charter holder during a particular fiscal year.

It is important to keep in mind that while SAIS will allow up to three assessments administered by an individual district or charter holder to exist, for purposes related to SAIS Student Integrity processing, many students will require no more than one assessment per year. SAIS Integrity rules developed to ensure that a student is eligible to participate in an ELL program have not changed.[1] Therefore, we still strongly recommend that school personnel make all necessary efforts to determine a student's assessment history before administering the AZELLA to any student who transfers-in to a school. While these new procedures allow educators greater leeway in determining when a student should be assessed, it is important to understand that there are no circumstances under which a district or charter may assess a student more than three times within the same fiscal year.

SAIS will impose no restrictions related to assessment date. For purposes related to SAIS Student Integrity processing, an assessment may be administered on any day of the fiscal year. To count an assessment record as unique, SAIS will only need to see that it has a date different than other assessment records. Once SAIS holds records of assessments administered by an individual district or charter on three different dates, it will accept no other assessment records from that district or charter for that particular student.

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[1] Applicable SAIS rules related to assessment:

1. Each student in a language program must have a record of an assessment administered within the current or past fiscal year in SAIS. The assessment date must be on or prior to the student's language program participation start date for the current school year.

2. The assessment administered on or prior to a student's language program participation start date must demonstrate that the student is in need of language program assistance. (Overall Assessment Result = *ELL*, or *ELL After Reclassification*)

Please see "SAIS Related ELL Student Assessment Rules for FY 2009" available as part of the SAIS Information Series at http://www.ade.az.gov/schoolfinance/star.

Submission of student assessments

Final scoring of the Arizona English Language Learner Assessment is done by the test publisher, Pearson (formerly Harcourt Assessment, Inc[1]). In the past, after scoring assessments, the results were returned to school districts and charter schools through the use of *Rapid Reports*. School districts and charter holders were then responsible for submitting assessment results to the ADE via the SAIS Student Detail Data Interchange. From Fiscal Year 2009 forward, Pearson will not only continue to complete the scoring process and return results to districts and charters via *Rapid Reports*, but will also submit assessment results directly to ADE.

SAIS Transaction 12, "Student Assessment," will be disabled and LEA personnel will no longer be responsible for submitting assessment results to ADE. From FY 2009 forward, Pearson assumes full responsibility for the submission of assessment results.

Pearson has devised procedures to ensure that they will have all data necessary to report complete and accurate assessment results to ADE. We strongly recommend that LEA personnel become familiar with and strictly adhere to those procedures. Pearson will not score assessments that do not include all required data. However, certain information (i.e., the date indicated as when the assessment was administered) cannot be verified by Pearson. **Because procedures to make changes to data submitted to ADE by Pearson are complicated, we strongly recommend that LEA personnel take great care to ensure that all data, including assessment date, are verified as complete and accurate before assessments are submitted to Pearson for final scoring**.

The Student Detail Reports that display assessment results that reside in SAIS (i.e., SDELL70 Assessment Search Report, SDELL72 Assessment Report) continue to be generated by ADE. These reports are available to registered users of the Student Detail Data Interchange on ADE's Common Logon immediately after assessment results are submitted by Pearson and processed successfully in SAIS.

In prior years, LEA personnel determined and submitted the Overall Assessment Result (i.e., Initial FEP, ELL, Reclassified FEP, ELLAR, Continuing FEP). From FY 2009 forward, SAIS will determine the Overall Assessment Result from the Overall Proficiency (Performance) Level indicated by Pearson and in consideration of all other assessment records that exist in SAIS for a student.

Example 1 – SAIS classifies this student as Initial FEP

- Student's Overall Proficiency Level is Proficient.

- Student has no previous assessment record in SAIS (from any educational entity).

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[1] Harcourt is now owned by Pearson Educational Measurement. ADE personnel will often use the names Harcourt and Pearson interchangeably when referring to the company that publishes and scores AZELLA. From FY 2009 forward, Pearson also submits student assessment results to ADE.

Example 2 – SAIS classifies this student as ELL

- Student's Overall Proficiency Level is Pre-Emergent, Emergent, Basic or Intermediate.

- Student either has no previous assessment record or Student's most recent assessment record in SAIS (from any educational entity) shows the student as having been ELL.

Example 3 – SAIS classifies this student as Reclassified FEP

- Student's Overall Proficiency Level is Proficient

- Student's most recent assessment record in SAIS (from any educational entity) shows the student as having been ELL or ELLAR.

Example 4 – SAIS classifies this student as ELLAR

- Student's Overall Proficiency Level is Pre-Emergent, Emergent, Basic or Intermediate.

- Student's most recent assessment record in SAIS (from any educational entity) shows the student as having been Reclassified FEP, Continuing FEP or ELLAR.

Example 5 – SAIS classifies this student as Continuing FEP

- Student's Overall Proficiency Level is Proficient.

- Student's most recent assessment record in SAIS (from any educational entity) shows the student as having been Reclassified FEP or Continuing FEP.

In order to provide ample opportunity for Pearson and ADE to work through technical issues associated with the submission of assessment results, SAIS Student Integrity is not expected to validate a student's eligibility to participate in an ELL program during Fiscal Year 2009 until April 1, 2009. This means that until April 1, the Integrity processing status of students participating in an ELL program will be unknown. We strongly recommend that appropriate LEA personnel review the ADE generated Student Detail Reports that display the program participation status (SDELL71) and assessment results (SDELL72) well before April 1 to ensure that each ELL program participant has a record of assessment in SAIS justifying program participation (Overall Assessment Result of ELL or ELLAR).

Important note

These new procedures apply only to the submission and processing of student assessment results. LEAs continue to have sole responsibility for submitting data indicating student program participation status through use of SAIS Transaction 13 "Language Program Participation."